

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report:

South Carolina 2007 Swimming Season

July 2008

Introduction

The BEACH Act of 2000 requires that coastal and Great Lakes states and territories report to EPA on beach monitoring and notification data for their coastal recreation waters. The BEACH Act defines coastal recreation waters as the Great Lakes and coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that states, territories, and authorized tribes officially recognize or designate for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar activities in the water.

This fact sheet summarizes beach monitoring and notification data submitted to EPA by the State of South Carolina for the 2007 swimming season.

The beach program staff in South Carolina want your input. Please log onto our Web site and take the survey that is posted. Look at the site and give us your thoughts.

And, come to South Carolina—beautiful places and smiling faces await you.

Figure 1. South Carolina coastal counties.

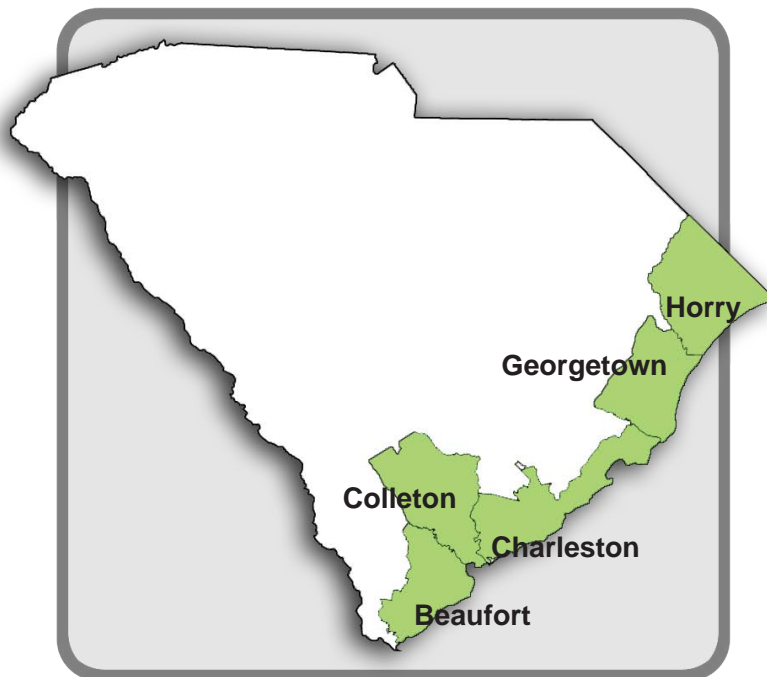


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2007.

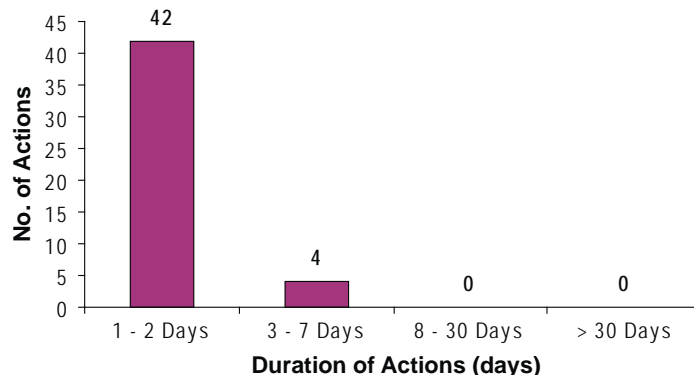
County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
BEAUFORT	4	4	0
CHARLESTON	5	5	0
COLLETON	1	1	0
GEORGETOWN	5	5	0
HORRY	8	8	0
TOTALS	23	23	0

2007 Summary Results

How many notification actions were reported and how long were they?

South Carolina's approach is to issue a beach advisory when water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach that warns people to avoid contact with the ocean water. A total of 23 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2007 swimming season. About 91 percent of South Carolina's 46 notification actions lasted two days or less. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.



What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For South Carolina's 2007 swimming season, actions were reported about 2 percent of the time (Figure 3).

How do 2007 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2007 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources impact monitored beaches?

Figure 4 displays the percentage of South Carolina's monitored beaches potentially impacted by various pollution sources. In 2007, 74 percent of the beaches were listed as having no known sources of pollution.

Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

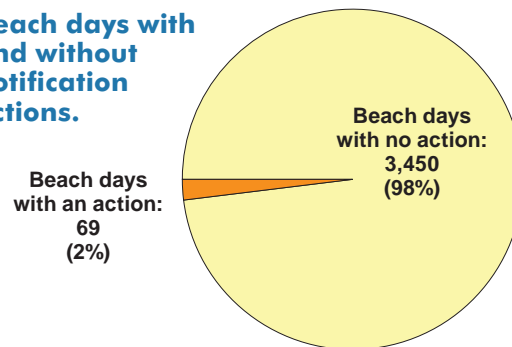


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2005–2007.

	2005	2006	2007
Number of monitored beaches	23	23	23
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	8	9	10
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	35%	39%	43%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	8%	8%	2%

For More Information

For general information about beaches:
www.epa.gov/beaches/

Information regarding sample results is available at the South Carolina DHEC Web site at www.scdhec.gov, www.earth911.com or by contacting DHEC at (843) 238-4378.

Figure 4: Percent of monitored beaches potentially impacted by pollution sources (23 beaches).

